

## Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House - Tuesday, April 3, 2012

From the Berkshires to the Cape to the farmers' markets in Boston, each year this exciting agricultural community-driven event draws hundreds of farmers, agriculture officials, legislators, and agricultural supporters from across the Commonwealth. For one full day, participants gather at the State House to celebrate Massachusetts agriculture and discuss issues and legislation affecting their farms and communities.

The event includes a speaking program, 'Agriculture Day' awards, informational exhibits and a reception featuring Massachusetts' farm and specialty food products. Please join us in recognizing Massachusetts' farmers; learn more about efforts to maintain the long-term viability of Massachusetts' agriculture; and celebrate Massachusetts agricultural products!



### PROGRAM

9:00 am – 11:30am	Registration – Bartlett Hall
10:00 am	Farmer Orientation on Agricultural Issues—Nurses Hall
10:00 am	Farmer – Legislator visits
11:30 am	Speaking Program Nurses Hall
11:30 am	Preview Reception for Legislators (by invitation only)
12:00 pm	"Taste of Massachusetts" Reception & Exhibits - Great Hall & Grand Staircase Areas

Nametags will be available at the registration desk. For more information contact: The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation at 508-481-4766, or [info@mfbf.net](mailto:info@mfbf.net).

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## USDA Gearing up to Conduct 2012 Census of Agriculture

The last Census of Agriculture conducted in 2007 showed positive trending for Massachusetts: 27 percent growth in farms both in crop and livestock sales and an increase in direct sales from farms from \$42 million in 2007, compared with \$31 million in 2002 -- to name just a few. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, and your responsibility. For more information about NACS, the Census of Agriculture, or to add your name to the Census mail list, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Watch this short video from Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture Scott J. Soares to learn more.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at [mass.gov/agr](http://mass.gov/agr), and/or follow at [twitter.com/agcommishsoares](https://twitter.com/agcommishsoares). For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: [www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming\\_up.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm).